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Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—" That memorandum has not been printed. Will the hon. the Law Member please see that that memorandum is published, if it has not been already ordered to be published?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Oh, yes. I have no objection."

Prisons and Prisoners

Number of political prisoners confined in jails on the 1st *July* 1933.

* 56 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the number is of political prisoners in jails on 1st July 1933;

(*b*) how many of them are yet to serve a term of more than six months; and

(*c*) how many of them were convicted in this Presidency and how many of them were brought from outside?

A.—(*a*) 480.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know, Sir, whether it is not possible for the Government to get the information and furnish it to the House?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Certainly it is possible, but I am afraid that it will not serve any useful purpose to obtain it. If, however, my hon. Friend is very particular, I shall consider the suggestion of getting it."

Inland Waterways

Expenditure on account of the maintenance of the Buckingham canal.

* 57 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of boats, along with their total tonnage, that were plying for hire in the Buckingham Canal in the years 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930; and

(*b*) the amount of money spent by the Government for keeping that canal in a state of repair in the years 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930?

A.—(*a*)

Year.		Number of boats—cargo and passenger.	Total tonnage—cargo and passenger.
1900–01	..	Not available.	159,015
1910–11	..	Do.	281,943
1920–21	..	2,012 *	142,284¼
1930–31	..	2,340 *	114,709½

* These figures include all kinds of boats that plied in the canal. Separate figures giving the number of boats that plied for hire, and of those belonging to Government departments and private individuals that did not ply for hire are not available.

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(*b*)—

Year.	Maintenance charges including special navigation establishment.
	RS.
1900–01	64,326
1910–11	60,244
1920–21	2,07,274
1930–31	2,49,160

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Government have made any enquiry as to why there has been a diminution in the tonnage between 1920–21 and 1930–31?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"No, Sir."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have seriously considered the question of improving the facilities for the boats moving about in this canal freely?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"Certainly. In fact Government have endeavoured to carry out some improvements."

Irrigation

Action taken by the Government on the report of the Palar River Enquiry Committee.

*58 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps the Government have taken on the preliminary report of the Palar River (failure of freshes) Enquiry Committee; and

(*b*) whether they propose to call for the meeting of the committee for the purpose of considering the situation?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 546, dated the 3rd November 1931.

(*b*) The information called for from the Mysore Darbar at the instance of the Committee (vide answer to Question No. 588, dated the 3rd November 1931) has not yet been received. The Mysore Government have accepted a suggestion that a conference should be held between representatives of the Mysore and Madras Governments to settle certain outstanding irrigation disputes between the two Governments. The Palar case will be included among the items to be discussed. The question of calling for a further meeting of the Committee will be considered after the discussion.